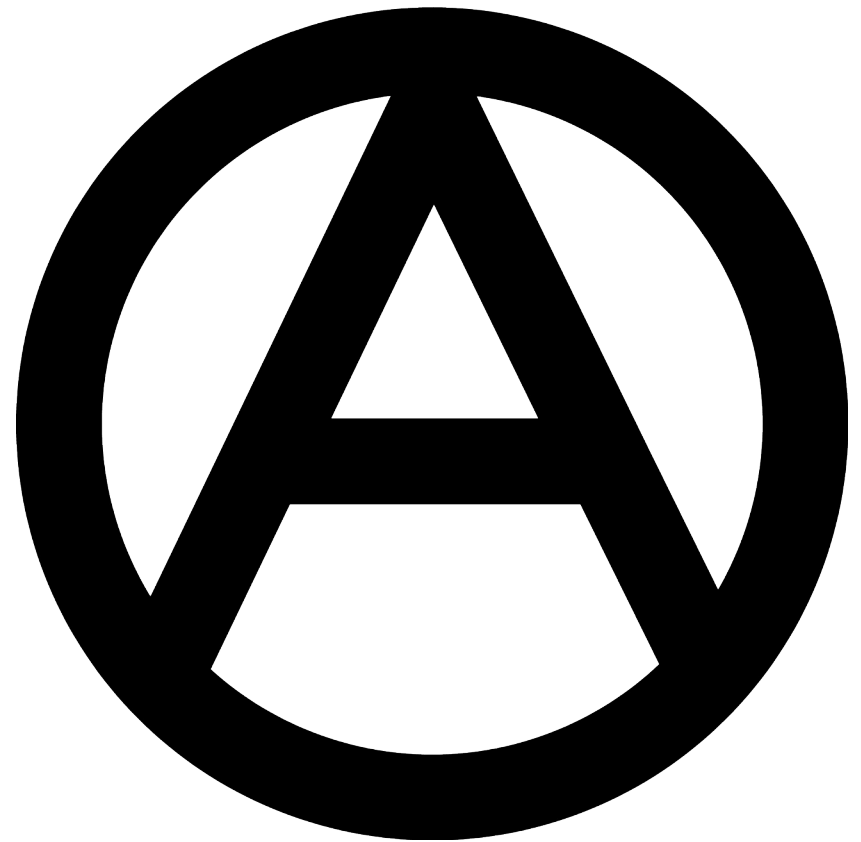


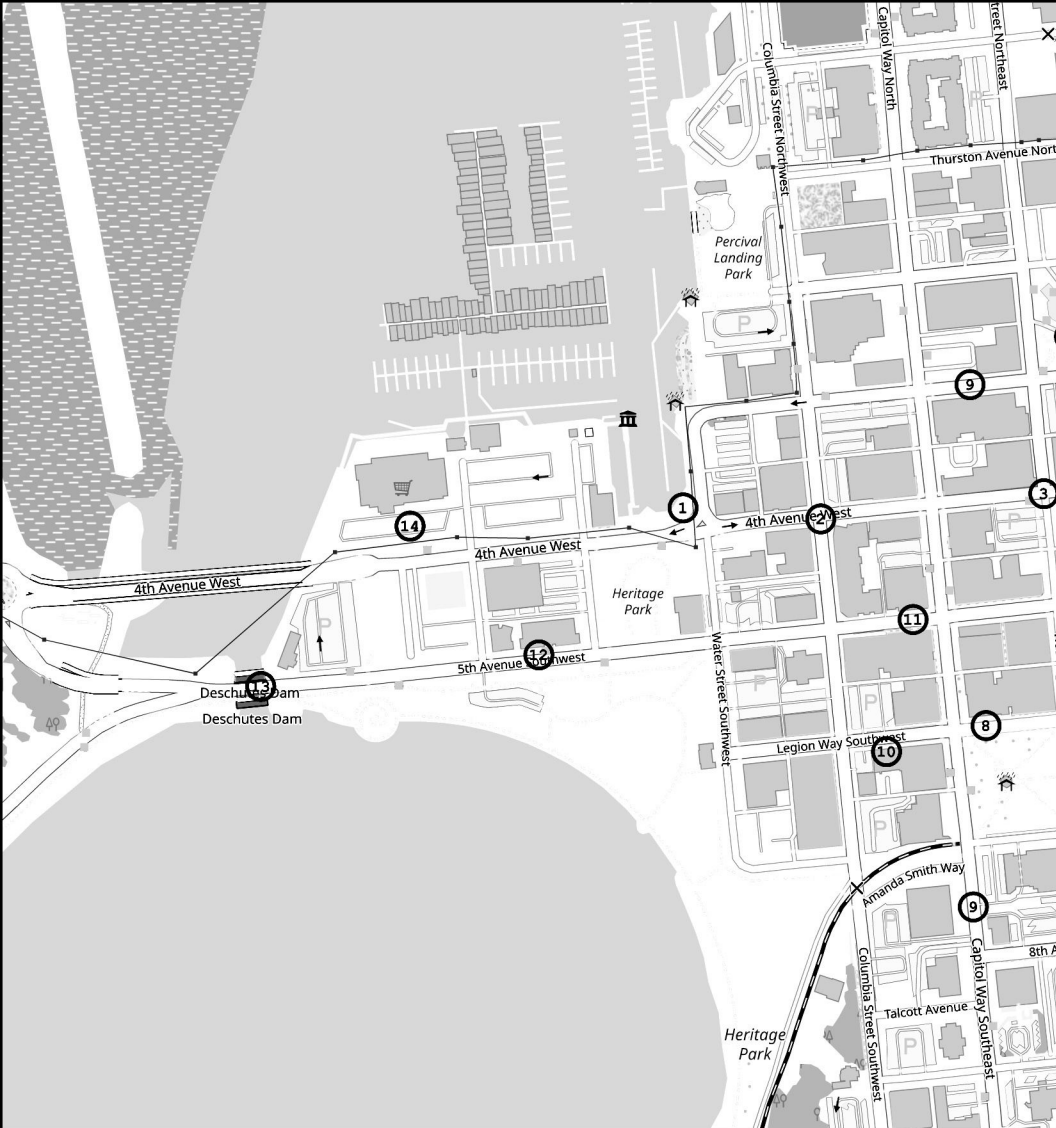
***Olympia Anarchist
History
Walking Tour
2023***



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Fish In Protests

In the Treaty of Medicine Creek indigenous peoples are guaranteed fishing rights but in practice they were heavily restricted – and to this day are still on and off contested – to the benefit of settlers and commercial fisheries. In the 50's and 60's the federal government publicly adopted a long since de facto policy of “termination” of indigenous identity and organization which included the rolling back of treaty rights. Early on indigenous nations tried to go the legal route and continually failed in the court room and in the mid 60's into the 70's indigenous people carried out protests and illegal fish ins which became more and more aggressive culminating in multiple armed stand offs and fire fights between police and indigenous protestors forcing the government into compromise with the 1974 Boldt decision in U.S. v. Washington which gave in to every demand of the protestors.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9U5zTalWaxs>

<https://depts.washington.edu/civilr/fish-ins.htm>

OPD Murder of Stephen Edwards

November 7, 2002 the Bayview called OPD on a suspected shoplifter and when OPD arrived they tazed Stephen Edwards to death.

<https://www.prisonlegalnews.org/news/publications/taser-olympia-wa-in-custody-death-cleared-2002/>

1. Indigenous History
2. Combative Demos
3. Port Militarization Resistance
4. The Big ACAB / Chasing Out Nazis
5. Mayday 2017 & 2018 / The Well /
May 30th Nazi Smashing
6. Smashings of City Hall
7. Blockades / Neo-Nazis Murder Bob Buchanan

Shortly after, Pacific Coast Security canceled the contract.
The new ODA office is located at 115 State Ave NW Suite

<https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/olympia-copwatch-on-private-security-downtown/>

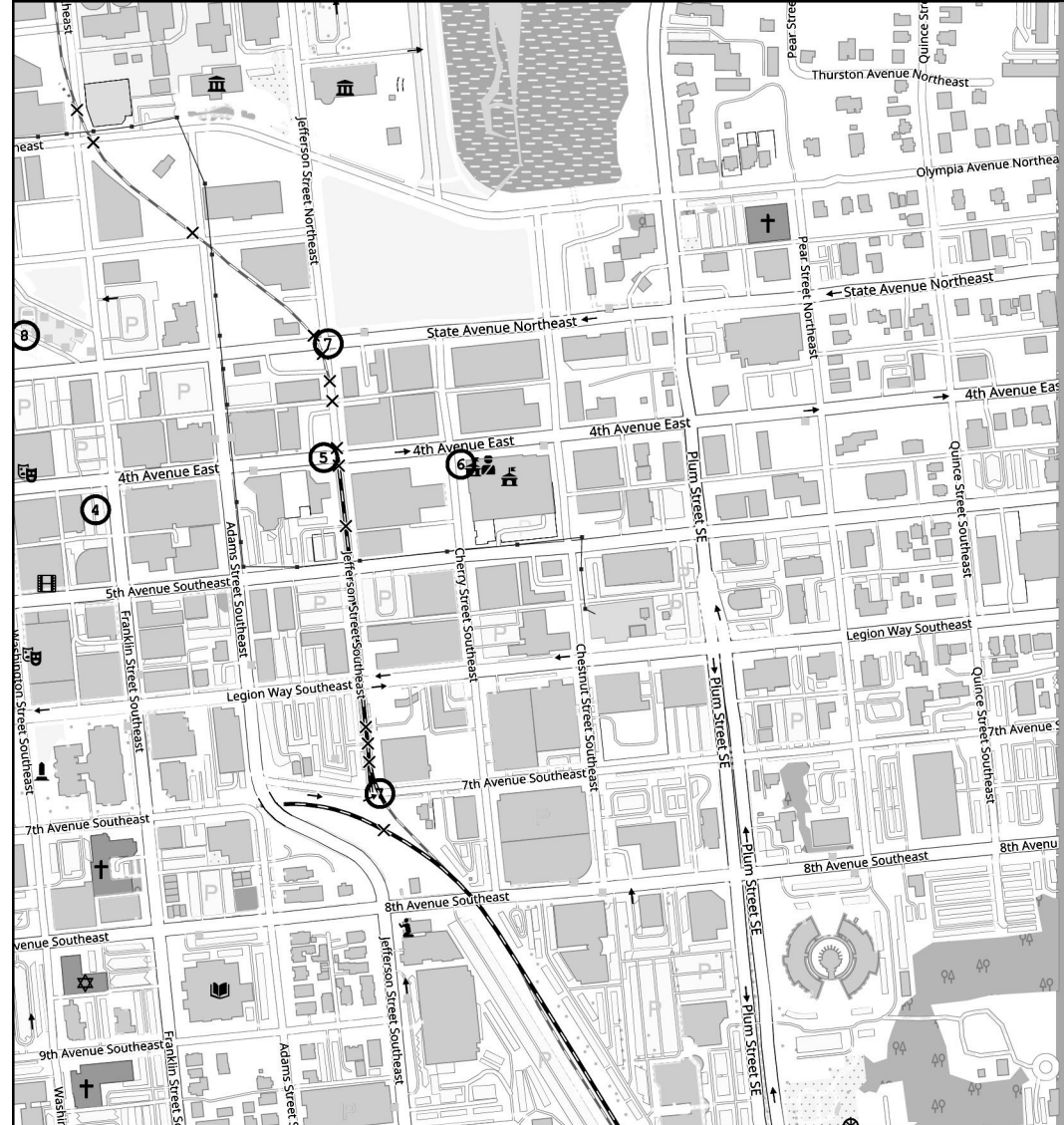
<https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/campaign-to-end-anti-homeless-security-contracts-launched-by-olympia-solidarity-network/>

<https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/direct-action-gets-satisfaction-anti-homeless-security-patrols-suspended/>

George Jackson Brigade Bombing of the DOC Offices

In June 1975 the George Jackson Brigade – an urban guerrilla group made up of anarchists and communists – bombed the then Department of Corrections office in solidarity with prisoners at Walla Walla State Prison and the demands set forth by the prisoner Resident Government Council formed during an uprising where they took hostages and control of a unit.

<https://libcom.org/article/creating-movement-teeth-documentary-history-george-jackson-brigade>



8. Anarchists Killed Starbucks
9. Hotel Occupation
10. Anarchist Cold Weather Shelter
11. Olympia Downtown Alliance
12. George Jackson Brigade Bombing
13. Billy Frank Jr. Fish In Protest
14. OPD Murder of Stephen Edwards

Indigenous History of St̓c̓as

St̓c̓as is the lushootseed word for the general area of Olympia.

St̓c̓as is primarily Sq̓w̓a̓x̓s̓əd̓əb̓š (Squaxin) and Sq̓w̓ali̓ʔab̓š (Nisqually) territory used as a shared hunting and fishing ground, as well a trade area for others such as Spuyaləpab̓š (Puyallup) & Sduhub̓š (Snohomish).

White settlers repeatedly infringed on fishing and hunting grounds and settled indigenous lands leading to various skirmishes. Eventually the nations were forced into treaty negotiations ending with the Treaty of Medicine Creek which interned indigenous peoples into reservations and nominally assured fishing and hunting rights which have been continually contested.

Understanding how bad the deal was for them, the Sq̓w̓ali̓ʔab̓š (Nisqually) rejected the treaty and went to war with the United States to defend their territories and way of life, unfortunately being defeated and ending with the capture and execution of Chief Leschi.

After the end of the Puget Sound War indigenous peoples, even those who didn't take part in the war, were forcibly relocated by the military.

In World War 2, a large amount of land was stolen again from the Sq̓w̓ali̓ʔab̓š (Nisqually) for JBLM with the promise of return after the war. The land has never been returned.

Many wealthy families, large landowners, and powerful corporations in the area are direct descendants of the first settlers who's continued wealth is owed solely to the dispossession of indigenous peoples from their land.

Much of the history is recorded by the colonizers and is inherently untrustworthy.

Anarchist Cold Weather Shelter

For a few years, anarchists had an event space, print shop and multi-media center at 115 Legion. In February 2019 a large snow storm hit and for 4 nights 115 Legion was transformed into a cold weather shelter where anarchists were able to coordinate cold weather clothes, warm food and drink, and a warm place to be for people out on the streets and were able to give as many people that would fit a place to sleep during the cold.

The landlord was pissed, and multiple homeless advocacy nonprofits were pissed but fuck em all we do what we do regardless.

<https://itsgoingdown.org/facing-a-storm-olympia/>

Olympia Downtown Alliance

The Olympia Downtown Alliance is a pressure group of downtown businesses and landowners who are responsible for much of the gentrification and anti-homeless policies of the city and police. In mid 2018 the ODA hired Pacific Coast Security to do walking patrols to trespass and call the police on homeless people sleeping on the side walks and alcoves. Olympia Cop Watch began to report on and irregularly follow their patrols to keep an eye on them and support people who were getting harassed.

In September Olympia Solidarity Network launched a campaign against ODA and it's members to get the PCS contract dropped. The tactic was regular mass heckling where a group of 10-20 members of OlySol, Copwatch, and autonomous individuals would follow and harass the two security guards for their shift. Multiple times this ended with the shift ending early. This culminated in an action December 1st where a large group of people in various whimsical costumes chased PCS into the ODA building which they surrounded and blockaded so they couldn't leave. They kept this blockade until the police arrived at which point people scattered and one person was arrested.

Murder of Bob Buchanan Jr

August 9th, 1992 Asian-American, anti-fascist punk Bob Buchanan Jr was lured into the train tunnel by two neo-nazis where they killed him by slitting his throat and stabbing him multiple times. The police were largely silent about the matter until forced by protests to admit their primary suspects were neo-nazi skin heads and that it was a hate crime.

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2004/10/02/it-did-happen-here/>

Anarchists Killed Starbucks

For many years this particular Starbucks was repeatedly attacked by anarchists during various combative demonstrations and particularly in 2020 where it was attacked multiple times a week for months they closed the store down.

Hotel Occupation

In late January 2021 homeless people and allies occupied the Red Lion Hotel to directly house people. The occupation lasted only a few hours before being violently cleared by the SWAT team. Even though there was no blockade of entrances and exits and people and staff were free to and did leave, the hotel owner ordered all staff to shelter in place and called the police saying they were being held hostage. The police mobilized a large riot team to surround the hotel and sent the SWAT team in to clear the hotel room by room injuring multiple people with take downs and flash bangs. 10 people were arrested.

Combative Demos

Anarchists have carried out many, many combative demonstrations over the years, too many to list out individually.

These demos have been responses to police murders, solidarity actions with uprisings in other cities or against particular acts of political repression. Sometimes they just ended up happening because an anarchist punk band brought people into the street or a queer dance party got a little too rowdy.

These demonstrations have consisted of attacks on property, fiery blockades in the streets, attacks on police and fascists and for most of them no one was ever arrested.

They've been percise, carefully planned 5 minute in and out strikes leaving well before the police have a chance to mobilize a response, to multi hour roving and uncontrollable mobs evading and attacking the police.

Port Militarization Resistance

Between 2006 and 2009 a regional movement emerged to oppose the use of ports for shipping military equipment and personnel to the middle east to be deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The movement erected tent cities by the port to watch for military cargo and sent out a call for people to come help block it. Tactics used were sit ins, vigils, soft blockades and hard blockades, the more unruly and anarchist elements which opposed the adherence to non-violence of the PMR organization used combative demos attacking property, police and military equipment.

During this time, JBLM sent intelligence officer John Towrey to infiltrate PMR and anarchist organizing spaces.

The Big ACAB

In the middle of the night anarchists painted a giant ACAB on the very top of the free wall that loomed all over downtown. The city was pissed and tried to pressure OFS to take it down and the community counter pressured OFS to keep it up and it stayed up for years before eventually it was replaced with a giant white woman looking down on us all. We believe one day the ACAB will return.

Nazis Chased Out of the Free Wall

One day in 2017 word spread throughout the community that there were 3 nazis doing graffiti down at the free wall. People kept an eye on them as a group of about 20+ people assembled quickly. Once the group was assembled and ready they went to the free wall, surrounded and confronted them. The nazis tried to pretend they weren't nazis but they clearly had the SS lightning bolts and 88 (numeric code for Heil Hitler) tattooed on them. The group told them if they gave up their paint and their god awful hats they'd let them go. The nazis gave it up, and the group chased them out of downtown anyway.

<https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/nazis-chased-out-of-downtown-olympia/>



People organized train watching for days and set up a rapid response phone tree. On the day the train was spotted, it was blocked and a call went out and people came and ended up setting up camp, building a large barricade and tent structures on the track. The blockade lasted 7 days before police cleared it in an early morning raid followed by clashes around downtown as they escorted the train. Multiple people were arrested during the start of the raid when they sat down, linked arms and refused to move.

A year and a day after the raid people got word again that a train carrying fracking proppants was coming through and an impromptu demonstration again blockaded the tracks and in hours the blockade was re-established, bigger and more expansive than before. This time it was 12 days before the police raided and beforehand people made the decision to leave before the police arrived. There were no arrests.

These actions cost Rainbow Ceramics so much that they ended up canceling the contract with the Port of Olympia

<https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/the-ex-worker-61-the-olympia-train-blockade/>



Smashings of City Hall

In the many combative demonstrations that happened, the city hall and police station have been constant targets. They really should have thought twice before making the front of their ugly ass building all windows.

But two particular instances are worthy of mention. The first time the new city hall was smashed was an anti-police march on September 5th 2015 where, after hospitalizing a motorcyclist with confederate flags flying on his bike, a group of 50 people attacked city hall with baseball bats, rocks and paint bombs causing thousands of dollars in damage before dispersing. No one was arrested.

The on July 4th, 2020 a ferocious Fuck The 4th demonstration tore through downtown, setting off fire works, tagging every wall, smashing everything they passed by, and setting multiple fires before they tore up the city hall and bashed a hole into the door of the police station that people used to reach in and get inside to tag before dispersing. There were no arrests.

<https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/against-the-charges-against-the-cops-against-the-nazis-update-from-the-struggle-in-olympia/>

<https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/olympia-two-reportbacks-from-fuck-the-4th-march/>

The Blockades

Two blockades of the railway leading to the Port of Olympia happened in 2016 and 2017. In 2016, networks building off of the Port Militarization Resistance got word that there was talk of the port shipping military equipment again so people organized to do research and watch the port. They learned that military equipment wasn't going to be shipped but that the port had a contract with Rainbow Ceramics to ship fracking proppants out to North Dakota. This was during the height of the movement at Standing Rock and people felt called to block the proppants.

Mayday 2017

One of the largest and most well equip black blocs assembled for mayday 2017. Bearing a large banner reading “We are the birds of the coming storm” – words of August Spies one of the Haymarket Martyrs – and wielding shields, large wooden dowels and metal rods with black fabric attached to the end, and slingshots.

What this group had in equipment it lacked in purpose and resolve. Waiting around for the police to attack them, push them out of and around downtown, the group managed to lightly injure a handful of police and do minimal damage before dispersing with 9 arrests.

<https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/137-2/>

<https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/an-analysis-of-may-day-2017-in-olympia/>

<https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/why-did-those-anarchists-destroy-downtown-olympia/>



Mayday 2018

Compared to 2017, 2018 was much smaller but much more well planned. On May 1st businesses all around downtown boarded up their windows in anticipation for a repeat of last year. All that happened on May 1st was a noise demo at the mayor's house with chants of “Fuck Your Yuppie Bullshit!” people annoyed the mayor until the police chased people out of the neighborhood. There were no arrests.

Then May 2nd came, the city exhaled a breath of relief as they took down the boards. All was peaceful. Until later that night when a group of 15-20 people in all black stormed through downtown smashing and tagging everything within reach. They were gone just as quickly as they came, before the police could even figure out what was going on. There were no arrests.

<https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/home-demo-at-the-mayor-of-olympias-house-a-reportback/>

<https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/happy-may-day-bank-smashed-and-vandalized-in-olympia-wa/>

<https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/nighttime-march-in-olympia-celebrates-may-day-a-day-late/>

The Well

The Well has long been a battle ground around gentrification. For the longest time it was the central spot where homeless people could hang out and easily access needed services. The city government, business owners, and the newer residences that the city was desperately trying to attract hated the fact they had to see homelessness in their downtown and eventually closed the well. Multiple times people have tried to re-open the well, both in swift night time actions of taking down the fencing to broader public demonstrations of people tearing down the fencing to share food and play games only to have to face down with the police.

The struggle to reclaim the Well continues and one day we will win.

<https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/class-war-on-the-sidewalks-gentrification-in-olympia/>

<https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/olympia-autonomous-crowd-reopens-the-artesian-commons-police-respond-with-force/>

<https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/the-struggle-for-the-artesian-well-in-olympia-wa/>

May 30th Nazi Smashings

May 21st, 2015 two black teenagers Andre and Bryson were shot by Olympia Police Officer Ryan Donald. Over the course of the following weeks and months there were many protests, sit ins, and combative demonstrations. During the earlier days there were also Neo-Nazi's which repeatedly rallied in support of OPD.

On May 30th there was going to be another Black Lives Matter demonstration but word came out that Nazis on the neo-nazi website Stormfront were planning to come counter protest. Word spread out in the community and people prepared to defend the demonstration.

On the night of, 300+ people came together, with a large contingent of 80-100 in black bloc armed with sticks, pipes and fire extinguishers to take on the Nazis. People hit the street to the chant of "Nazis Out of Oly! Take! The! Streets!". The demonstration did a couple laps through downtown before the Nazis were spotted on a side street – only a small group of 15. The demonstration quickly came to them and a short and tense stand off occurred before the tension was broken by a small scuffle, someone let off a fire extinguisher at the Nazis, objects started to fly and the Nazis took off running followed by the demonstration throwing rocks, pipes and chairs from the sidewalk at them. They were chased all the way down to the street to where they parked by the tracks. Some hurried into their trucks which had their windows smashed as they hurriedly drove either up the street or into the train tunnel where others had ran into.

That crew of Nazis hasn't been seen since.

<https://pugetsoundanarchists.org/what-happened-here-the-events-in-olympia-on-the-evening-of-may-the-30th/>